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UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA BULLETIN

THE JOURNAL OF JAMES AKIN JR.

Edited by

EDWARD EVERETT DALE

NORMAN, OKLAHOMA
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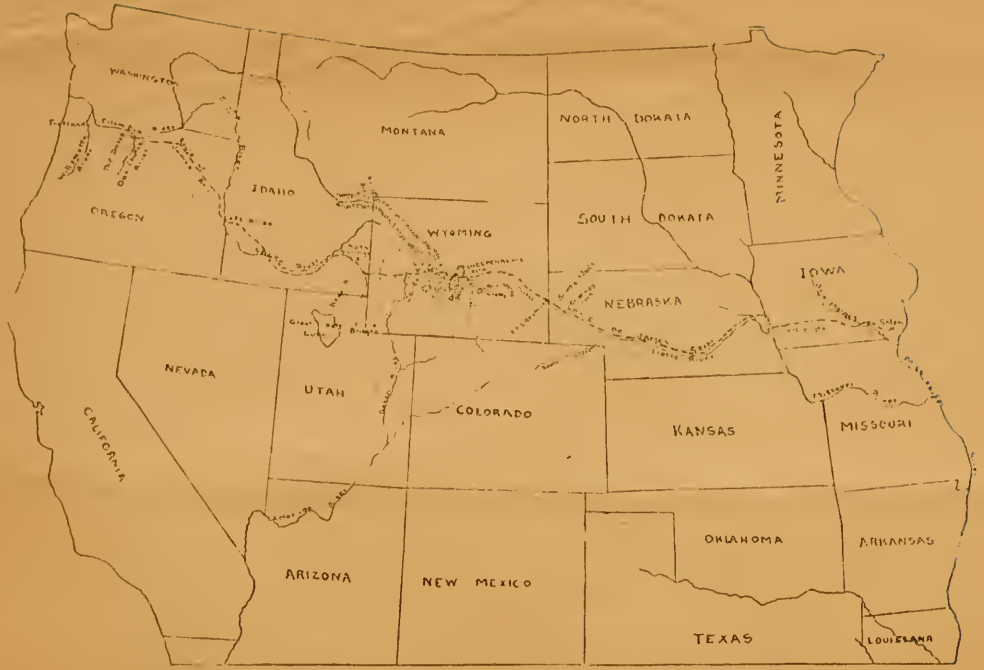
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PREFACE

This is the first of a series of historical studies, or leaflets, to be published by the University of Oklahoma. These studies are to consist of original documents of western and southwestern history, and are to be issued at regular intervals in the future.

In this document the original text has been preserved throughout. Notes are added when it has seemed necessary to explain statements, but the spelling, punctuation, and capitalization are given just as they appear in the journal itself.

The editor wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to Mr. P. C. Slack of Edmond, Oklahoma, who first told him of the manuscript and through whose agency it was obtained, and to Mrs. D. H. Hartley of Hillsboro, Iowa, for her courtesy in lending this journal, which she justly prizes very highly. He also desires to express his thanks to Professor Lyman P. Wilson of the University of Oklahoma for assistance rendered in photographing the specimen pages herein given, and to two of the editor's own students, Mr. Lanson D. Mitchell, and Mr. Morris L. Wardell, for helping to trace on the map the route followed by James Akin and his party.



Map Showing the Route of James Akin and His Party.

INTRODUCTION

In the spring of 1852 a small party started from southeastern Iowa to journey overland to Oregon. The little group consisted of four families, all apparently related to one another. Stuart Richey was the leader. Besides himself and family there were Caleb Richey and family, James Ingram and family, and James Akin and family.. The exact number of persons is unknown but was probably between thirty and forty. . They were traveling in ox wagons with perhaps about five yoke of oxen to each wagon. With the party was a young man about eighteen years of age, James Akin Jr., who kept a brief journal of the trip in which he recorded the daily happenings.

It is not at all surprising that this little expedition should have started to Oregon about this time. This was the period of the "Oregon fever". For several years Oregon had been a veritable Land of Promise to the people of the Mississippi Valley, and even to many of those of the extreme East. The journal of Lewis and Clark published some forty years before by the great banker, Nicholas Biddle of Philadelphia, had attracted much attention. Astoria had been founded by the Pacific Fur Company, had been lost during the War of 1812 and regained soon after the close of that war. Hall Kelly, the Boston schoolmaster, had organized in 1829 the American Society for the Settlement of Oregon Territory, and had urged migration to Oregon as a means of wresting that region from Great Britain, that still held equal rights there with the United States under the Joint Occupation Treaty. Nathan Wyeth and Ewing Young had visited the Oregon Country in the early '30's and their stories were well known. Also the Lees had founded a mission on the Willamette River in 1834.. Others had joined them and in 1836 the Whitmans and the Spaldings had crossed over to Oregon to found the famous Wailatpu Mission on the Walla Walla River. In 1842 Whitman had made his ride to the East returning in 1843 in company with a numerous party of settlers. John C. Fremont, the "Pathfinder" had explored and mapped much of the route in 1842 and 1843, though it had long been well known to the fur traders.

All this had aroused a great interest in Oregon and the signing of the treaty of June 15, 1846 with Great Britain

making the forty-ninth parallel the boundary line from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific gave the United States complete title to all of the so-called "Oregon Country." Migration was still further encouraged by the acquisition of California and by the gold discoveries.

Then came the Donation Act of 1850 which gave to every citizen of the United States who had settled in Oregon prior to the passage of the act three hundred and twenty acres of land and to all Americans who should settle there before 1853 one hundred and sixty acres for each man and an additional hundred and sixty acres for his wife. Remembering that the Richey and Akin party left Iowa in the spring of 1852 and arrived in Oregon in due time to take advantage of this legislation, we can hardly doubt that this was one motive which led to the journey.

Moreover, it seems that the Richeys and Akins were pioneers by instinct. Their ancestors had left Culpepper County, Virginia for Boonesborough, Kentucky where they settled soon after the founding of that place by Boone in 1775. In 1808 they had removed to Pendleton County Kentucky where they again settled in the wilderness not far from the Licking River. From there they had removed to Illinois and located near the site of the present city of Peoria. A few years later they had again removed, this time to Iowa, settling in Henry County near Salem, at a time when the nearest post-office was Fort Madison, thirty miles away. Their next journey is the one recorded in the pages of James Akin's journal.

We may wish that the author of this document had been less brief in his entries. There were remarkable happenings on this journey the details of which would no doubt form interesting reading. And yet anyone who knows the West and life in camp and on the trail can read much between the lines of James Akin's meager record of events. Even the brief entry made August 19th at the ford of Snake River suggests many things:

"Try all day to get the cattle across and could not."

A simple statement of fact and yet anyone accustomed to the ways of the trail can fairly see that group of men pushing, pulling, hauling and sweating as they try in every possible way to get the stubborn oxen into the water and across the river, while the women busy themselves about camp preparing food or washing clothing. One can easily

imagine the shouts and cries; the new plans tried out; the councils of the leaders and the decision to try something else. An all day task and then at night nothing but failure! Very likely James Akin was too tired that evening to enter more than a single line in his journal. Or perhaps he thought the less said about that day the better!

The student of history may also find in this document many facts given unconsciously by James Akin. Facts in regard to the road, the edge of settlement at this time, the prices of various commodities, the eastern limit of the buffalo and the relations between the whites and the Indians. Above all the historian may find here the simple recital of hardships and dangers met in a fashion typical of our frontiersmen. Seven of the little party died on the journey, but apparently there was no thought of becoming discouraged or of turning back.

James Akin is a type. He and his little group of relatives and friends are but a drop in that great flood of migration that swept westward over the plains during several decades of the ninteenth century; a migration that peopled our Pacific coast states and builded magnificent cities and a splendid civilization beyond the Rockies in what had hitherto been a wilderness.

And so the creaking ox wagon rolling slowly along the dusty trail bore with it more than the family and the household goods of Stuart Richey or of James Akin. It was one of many thousands that were freighted with the hopes and dreams of a people, with the destiny of a nation whose watchword has ever been "Westward," until the most remote corners of our frontier empire have at last been penetrated and American civilization carried still beyond to remote islands of the Pacific.

EDWARD EVERETT DALE

Norman, Oklahoma.
February 1, 1919.

JOURNAL OF JAMES AKIN, Jr.

Original owned by Mrs. D. H. Hartley of Hillsboro, Iowa. (Obtained through the courtesy of Mr. P. C. Slack of Edmond, Oklahoma.)

Tuesday, April 15, 1852

first day crossed fish creek three-fourths of a mile roads good a plenty of watter and wood.

Friday 16

Rains till noon started came to Salem left Salem at 3 o'clock Traveled 6 miles a plenty of wood not much watter. (1)

Saturday 17

Start pretty soon rains nearly all day roads very muddy traveled 15 miles plenty of watter and wood.

sunday 18 1852

start at 9 o'clock-roads very bad. Pass Birmingham & Winchester. camp at libertyville. corn 55 cts. per bushel hay 50 per cwt—good place to camp. (2)

Monday 19

Roads better travel 15 miles passed through agency. camp in a good place—plenty of wood not much watter.

Tuesday 20th

Roads very good travel 16 miles passed altumira pretty cold day—camp in good place—plenty of wood and water overtook Caleb Richey. (3)

Wednesday April 21, 1852

bad roads travel 16 miles cold weather passed Eddyvill about noon bad place to camp plenty wood and watter.

1. Salem is in the southwest part of Henry County. The Akins and Richeys apparently lived a short distance east of Salem.

2. Winchester and Birmingham is the order in which he should have placed them, as Winchester was passed first. We shall note the steady lowering in the price of corn and other agricultural products as the party proceeds west, owing to increasing distance from market. Once they pass the farming frontier however and reach the Great Plains, we shall find prices increasing enormously in the fur-trading and mining region.

3. Apparently Caleb Richey had started a little in advance of the rest of the party. They were traveling nearly due west until they passed Winchester. They then turned north-west and traveled parallel with the Des Moines River.

Thursday 22

travel 15 miles Fine weather crossed the demoines river in the evening good place to camp on the bank of the river. (4)

Friday 23

Travel 3 miles and then stoped & stayed the balance of the day cool, dandy weather oats 40 cts a dozen corn 50 cts per bushel good place to camp. (5)

Saturday apr. 24 1852

Traveld 12 miles roads hilley and rough—cloudy weather. passed knoxville crossed white breast creek and camped on the bank bought hay.

Sunday 25 1852

Layed by all day cloudy weather Hearded all the cattle all day—good place to camp plenty of wood and water.

Monday 26th 1852

traveled 12 miles—cool weather—passed pleasantvill crossed South river & camped on the bank of the river—good place to camp.

Tuesday 27th

Traveled 16 miles—very good praierie road Palmyra-Indianola camp in the prairie—good place to camp a plenty of water not much wood.

Wednesday 28th

Traveled 16 miles—very good roads crossed big creek & camped on the bank of the same creek good place to camp plenty wood & water. (6)

Thursday April 29th 1852

Traveled 7 miles warm day & good roads crossed middle river & camped on the north side 2½ miles of wintersett good place to camp stop at noon.

Friday 30th 1852

Start at 9 o'clock—travel 3 miles and pass Wintersette roads very good—windy cold day stop & camp 1 mile west of

4. No doubt at the ferry southwest of Oskaloosa. Their route then led northwest to Knoxville; from there almost straight west to Winchester..

5.. Forty cents a dozen for oats in the sheaf. It will be observed that corn is cheaper here than further east.

6. Probably a stream flowing into Middle River which they crossed seven miles further on. They were not far from the boundary line between Warren and Madison counties.

Wintersette camp in a deep hollow good place to camp 47 wagons on the same ground. (7)

Saturday 1st 1852

Start early travel 20 miles very good roads camped in the prairie—plenty watter—carry wood 3-4 mile herd the cattle till 9 oclock.

Sunday 2nd

Very cold windy morning start about noon & travel 8 miles camp in the prairie & haul wood with us—not much grass plenty water rains at night.

Monday May 3d 1852

Start early Travel 15 miles—cool weather camp in the prairie good place to camp—plenty wood and water—more grass than common mudy branch.

tuesday May 4th 1852

Start early travel 18 miles—pretty day—plenty of grass a plenty of watter camp in the prairie—drive the cattle a half mile to grass. (8)

Wednsday 5th

Start earley—travel 15 miles—good roads—warm day—rains at night—camp in the prairie—plenty of watter & grass Good place to camp—no timber.

Thursday May 6th 1852

travel 16 miles. good roads but muddy. rained part of the day camp in a beautiful place on the bank of the creek grass plenty.

Friday 7th May 1852

Start early and travel 2½ miles to the creek & wait 4 hours to cross & the boat Sunk good roads in the prairie. camp in the prairie plenty water & grass no wood. (9)

Saturday 8th 1852

Travel 15 miles—good roads camp in Kainsville bad place to camp—plenty wood & watter but no grass beautiful day great many camped around. (10)

7. The number of wagons camped here shows the extent of the migration westward this spring.

8. It will be observed that they are making long daily drives for ox teams; an average of sixteen or seventeen miles a day. The fact that they must drive the cattle half a mile to grass indicates that many others have passed over this route recently and the grass near the camping places has been eaten down.

9. Probably the West Nishnabatona not far from the present town of Oakland.

10. This was at the site of the present city of Council Bluffs, a well known crossing on the Missouri at this time.

Sunday May 9th 1852

Travel 3 miles and camp on the banks of the Missourie river beautiful day good place to camp plenty wood water & grass.

Monday 10th May 1852

Camped in the Same place corn 20 cts per bushel new boat started Fine day—many Indians around tents. (11)

tuesday 11th May 1852

beautiful day Fery boat sunk 2 or 3 drowned heard the cattle plenty of grass—flour 16 dollars per lb. (12)

Wednsday may 12 1852

camped in the same place rains in the evening a man killed by the wagon running over him Teams coming in all the time.

Thursday 13th May 1852

camped in the same place beautiful day—a great many teams on the ground—not much grass river raised a little.

Friday 14 May 1852

camped in the same place—boat Bought flour at 16 dollars per barel beautiful day—pack up the wagons.

Saturday 15th May 1852

Start early and travel 14 miles up the river to another ferry warm day—camp in 2 miles of the ferry—good place to camp plenty wood water & gras rains at night.

Sunday 16th 1852

camp in the same place—cold windy day—good place to camp plenty wood and water and grass great many teams pass. (13)

Monday 17th May 1852

Start early & go to the river boat could not get to cross camp here and drive the cattle back about 2 miles to grass.

Tuesday 18th May 1852

commence crossing in the morning and cross nearly all day very windy cross till midnight get all the cattle cross except 10 yoke.

11. The great drop in the price of corn should be noted. This is the first mention he makes of Indians. They were probably from across the river and came to the camp to trade or to ask for food.

12. Barrel no doubt. The "two or three drowned" obviously refers to other emigrants encamped at the same place, as does the following entry; "man killed by wagon running over him." The next two entries also indicate the large number of emigrants who used this ferry.

13. Probably not far from the site of the present town of Crescent.

Wednsday 19th 1852

Fery the other 2 teams early in the morning Start and travel 12 miles heard the cattle twice camp in a good place. (14)

Thursday 20th May 1852

Travel 15 miles cross Elkhorn river—wagons 2 dollars a piece camp in a good place. (15)

Friday May 21st 1852

Start early—travel 10 miles rains nearly all day. camp at 2 o'clock get scard at nothing & went back a mile for company, camp on platte river. (16)

Saturday 22nd

Travel 16 miles warm weather—travel up platte river bottom camp & then leave on account of small pox drive on to good place to camp. (17)

Sunday 23nd

Traveled 15 m'les up platte river bottom bad roads seen 30 Indians with their ponies loaded with buffaloe skins—good place to camp. (18)

Monday May 24th 1852

Traveled 18 miles to loup Fork Ferry then went up the river 6 miles in a very good place—plenty wood water & grass.

Tuesday 25th May 1852

Start early travel 13 miles up loup Fork to the ferry cross beaver river—camp near loup fork—bad place to camp.

Wednsday May 26th 1852

Travel 10 m'les—bad roads warm' day cross loup fork in the eavening deep fording with quick sand bottom good place to camp. (19)

14. Since the preceding entry says they have all the cattle across but ten yoke, this would indicate that they were working five yoke of oxen to each wagon.

15. Probably nearly straight east of Fremont, Nebraska. Many men who kept these ferries on the Oregon and California trails found them veritable gold mines.

16. They were now approaching the Indian country. His brief entry; "get scared at nothing" arouses one's curiosity as to the exact cause of their fright.

17. Small pox, cholera and other diseases were very prevalent along these trails. James Akin and his party probably encamped near other emigrants before discovering that these people had small pox among them.

18. This shows that they were nearing the buffalo country. The Indians probably lived further east and were returning from a hunting trip.

19. Apparently a short distance east of the present town of Fullerton, Nebraska.

Thursday 27th May 1852

Layed by all day—pretty good grass—watter and wood plenty camp near loup fork—good place to camp no indians about come to the sioux indians.

Friday 28th

Start early—travel 18 miles come to the buffaloe range sandy roads camp in the prairie plenty of grass no wood water scarce. (20)

Saturday May 29 1852

Start early travel 18 miles prairie roads some bad places to cross—saw the first antelope camp no wood

Sunday May 30th 1852

travel 16 miles—very good roads—pass no timber crossed one small creek camp near wood river plenty of wood and grass—not much water.

Monday 31st May 1852

Travel 15 miles—very good roads—travel in ½ mile of platte river all day camp in a good place drive cattle to platte river to water. (21)

Tuesday June 1st 1852

Start early—travel 17 miles—very good roads water the cattle at noon in platte—camp in good place—plenty water and grass no wood.

Wednsday June 2nd 1852

Travel 20 miles—very hot calm day—roads very dusty cros Elum and Buffalo Creeks camp—not much grass—drive them two miles to water—rainey and mudy night grand iland.

Thursday June 3nd 1852

travel 18 miles—muddy roads—cool day—came to platte river again—saw 5 graves—camp near platt no wood—some buffalo chips—came to alkali. (22)

20. A few miles east of the west line of Merrick County. This is an interesting entry as it indicates the eastern limit of the buffalo range in 1852.

21. The trail followed the Platte as there was little water elsewhere in this region.

22. Had it not been for buffalo chips and cow chips the plainsman would have had much difficulty in providing himself with fuel. Buffalo chips long afforded ready means for cooking his food and warming his camp.

Within recent years the editor has often seen a pioneer farmer driving slowly across the prairie, while his children gathered cow chips and threw them in the wagon. This was his only method for securing fuel for the winter.

Friday June 4th 1852

travel 16 miles—good roads saw 5 buffalo in the morning passed 1 grave—camped near platte good place to camp.

Saturday June 5th 1852

Travel 16 miles—good roads but sandy—crossed over a low sandy bluff extending to the river—rain and wind in evening—camp in a good place near platte.

Sunday June 6th 1852

Travel 20 miles—sandy roads—crossed skunk creek—three died with the cholera along the road camp on canion creek no timber. (23)

monday june 7th 1852

Travel 14 miles crossed canion creek—passed the last timber for 200 miles took a buffalo hunt—and wounded one—camp in a good place near the river buffalo chips.

June 8th Tuesday 1852

Laid by all day 13 of the boys went hunting and killed one antelope good grass and buffalo chips a great many wagons passing all the time. (24)

Wednesday june 9th 1852

Travel 19 miles—road ascends the bluff—very sandy roads cross north bluff forks and bluff creek camp in a good place —plenty of grass and chips—water scarce.

Thursday june 10th 1852

Travel 25 miles—cool day and sandy roads—platte river high—springs along the road—camp in a good place—plenty of grass—water and chips.

June 11th Friday 1852

Travel 18 miles over very sandy bluffs—very warm day—camp in a bad place—no grass not much water great many campers in sight.

Saturday june 12th 1852

Travel 12 miles—till noon—then stop and stay the balance

23. The "three died with the cholera" of course refers to other emigrants on the trail and not to members of the Atkin party.

24. They have passed the forks of the river and are following up the North Platte. They are far out upon the plains, a long distance from civilization. It would be interesting to know the details of these hunting trips.

of the day—camp in a good place—a good spring—and plenty of grass—lone tree.

Sunday June 13 1852

Start early and travel 16 miles—good roads and warm day rains in the evening—good place to camp—plenty grass and water.

Monday June 14th 1852

Travel 14 miles—sandy road cool day—came in sight of chimney rock—bad storm in the evening—good place to camp water grass and chips. (25)

Tuesday June 15th 1852

Laid by all day—on account of sickness—not much grass Caleb Richey and his company overtook us—plenty water—not much chips.

Wednesday June 16th 1852

Louise Richey wife of Stuart Richey died at two oclock in the morning Started at noon and traveled 15 miles—good roads pleasant weather—camp on platt—not much grass. (26)

Thursday 17th 1852

Travel 18 miles—very good roads—passed chimney rock drive the cattle 2 miles to the river to water at noon camp near platte—plenty of grass.

Friday June 18th 1852

Traveled 16 miles—excellent roads and warm day—passed scots bluffs—camp near the creek—good spring burnt up one old wagon. (27)

25. This entry enables us to locate the party exactly. Chimney Rock is famous land mark in that region. It is in western Nebraska, a little west of where the one hundred and third meridian crosses the Platte. It rises about eight hundred feet above the river. Court House Rock, another well known land mark, stands some distance east of Chimney Rock and must have been seen by James Akin, though he does not mention it. A good picture of Chimney Rock is given in Birge, "The Awakening of the Desert" p. 74.

26. The first death in the Akin party. Apparently they had no great fear of Indians, or they would have been more careful to keep together. (See preceding entry)

27. Scotts' Bluff rise 4,662 feet above sea level, forming the highest point in Nebraska. They were so named in memory of the tragic death by starvation of a man named Scott who was deserted by his companions. He was ill and the party was destitute of provisions. He managed to make his way to this bluff, where his remains were found much later. These bluffs rise abruptly from a comparatively level plain and form a striking object, no matter from which direction they are seen. The "burnt up one old wagon" shows how scarce fuel must have been. (See picture of Scott's Bluffs in Birge, "Awakening of the Desert" p. 155)

Saturday 19th 1852

traveled 16 miles—good roads and grass—camp close to platte river—good place to camp—plenty water and chips. . .

Sunday 20th 1852

travel 16 miles—sandy and dusty roads—drive the cattle into the river at noon to water camp near the river—plenty grass and water. (28)

Monday June 21st 1852

travel 5 miles—camp within 1½ miles of platte river considerable sickness in company good place to camp..

Tuesday june 22nd 1852

travel 20 miles over the black hills—found no water till 2 oclock camp in good place—plenty of pine and cedar wood but no water.

Wednesday 23nd 1852

Travel 12 miles very hilly bad roads. pine and cedar bluffs—cloudy rainy weather—Elva Ingram daughter of James and wife died—camp in good place—plenty wood no water. (29)

Thursday 24nd June 1852

Travel 15 miles—good roads but hilly—very cold rainy day—some sickness in company camp in a good place plenty wood and grass—not much water.

Friday 25 June 1852

Travel 18 miles—good roads—road returns to the river warm weather—camp near platte—plenty wood and water—not much grass.

Saturday June 26 1852

Travel 16 miles—bad country platte river very small—not much grass eny place. camp near the river not much wood.

Sunday June 27th

Travel 17 miles—level sandy roads warm day passed no timber—camp near the river—drive the cattle 2 miles to grass not much wood.

29. This. is the second death in the party.

28. They had now crossed the line into Wyoming, passing the boundary of that state about the forty-second parallel, not far from the present town of Pratt. It will be observed that the Richey-Akin party followed the practice of most other emigrants in resting about one day each week, though this day was quite as likely to be any other day as Sunday. They traveled all day on this Sunday, the 20th, but it will be noticed that they traveled but five miles the following day, while the preceding Tuesday they had "laid by all day—" he says "On account of sickness." They simply rested the day which was most convenient—that is, when they came to a good place to camp with an abundance of grass and water.

Monday June 28th 1852

Travel 18 miles—sandy roads met 6 men and 16 horses packing through from California passed considerable timber camp near the river-plenty grass. (30)

Tuesday June 29th 1852

Travel 18 miles—sandy road and windy day—get to the upper ferry—camp near the river drve—good place to camp—plenty wood and water—drive the cattle 3 miles to grass.

Wednesday June 30th 1852

Left the upper ferry on platte—and travel 18 miles without water—good roads camp near a spring—good grass the cattle got scattered very badley.

Thursday July 1st 1852

Travel 12 miles—good roads but dusty camp near platte river—pass no timber not much grass—drive the cattle three miles to grass.

Friday July 2nd 1852

Travel 18 miles—sandy road and dusty—pass Independence rock—cross sweet water—pass devils gate—camp near sweet water—not much grass. (31)

30. Many men returning from California carried their goods on pack horses. In some cases men walked the entire distance, dragging or pushing a small hand cart in which was loaded their food and bedding. The editor's father who crossed the plains in 1850 used to relate an incident of meeting a lone traveler dragging a hand cart who, as he approached them, whinnied like a horse and demanded to know if he would find grass further on!

31. Sweetwater joins the North Platte near the south line of Natrona County, Wyoming, a little east of the one hundred and seventh meridian. The valley of the North Platte, up which they had been following, here turns due south and the trail leaves it and follows up the valley of Sweetwater. Independence Rock was a famous landmark in this region. Its highest point is one hundred and fifty-five feet above the river and it covers an area of twenty-seven acres. This was a well known camping place. The rock is said to have derived its name from the fact that the first company of whites to go over this trail encamped here on the fourth of July and held a celebration in honor of the day. It is covered with the names of emigrants who have camped near it. The Devil's Gate, five miles further on, is a rift in the ridges of granite through which flows the Sweetwater. It is about four hundred feet deep with nearly vertical sides, less than three hundred feet apart at the top. (See Chittenden, History of the Fur Trade, Vol. 1, p. 471.

Saturday July 3nd 1852

Travel 18 miles—up sweet water—this river is about 40 ft wide—rattle snake mountains on the north side—snake indians—camp—not much grass. (32)

Sunday July 4th 1852

Laid by all day to let the cattle rest—cold and windy day and night—not much grass plenty sage brush for use many teams pass us wrote a letter.

Monday July 5th 1852

Travel 17 miles—sandy roads—windy cold day—cross sweet watter 4 times—bad to cross camp near the river on the south side—some grass and sage brush. (33)

Tuesday July 6th 1852

Laid by all day—good grass—sage brush—great many indians come and camp in 2 miles of us—trade some with us.

Wednesday July 7th 1852

Travel 17 miles without water—indians go with us—Joseph Mace overtook us—not much grass—near indian camp 1 mile above us.

Thursday July 8 1852

Travel 15 miles—drive the cattle 2½miles to grass in the morning—rough roads indians plenty—camp in two miles of the river good grass on the river. (34)

Friday July 9th 1852

Travel 15 miles—rough rocky roads—cross north fork of sweet water—passed some snow—camp on south fork of sweet water water good grass at camp.

Saturday July 10th 1852

Travel 13 miles—good roads crossed sweet water the last time

32. Sweetwater is a remarkably clear and beautiful mountain stream. The water in that region is usually alkaline, so the name "Sweetwater" seems very fitting. However the French name which was first given was Eau Sucree and not Eau Douce, and there is a tradition that it was given because some pack mules loaded with sugar were lost in this stream.

33. The trail continued along Sweetwater nearly to its source, crossing and recrossing it many times.

34. The Indians referred to may be Sioux, or possibly were Snake Indians.

Monday July 12th 1852

Start about noon and travel 6 miles to big camp 1/2 miles above the Island - drive the cattle 6 miles to grass - good place to camp

Tuesday July 13th 1852

Camp in the same place and let the cattle rest - no more water for 40 miles ahead

Wednesday July 14th 1852

Start at 10 o'clock and travel till night - stay an hour or two travel till midnight - stop and rest travel till day light - grass all the way

Thursday July 15th 1852

Travel till noon and reach green river - green never quite low - camp one mile below the Island - take the cattle onto an island and let them stay without guarding

passed over the summit of the rocky mountains—camp at pacific springs—pleasant day. (35)

Sunday July 11th 1852

Travel 20 miles—very good roads—camp on little sandy—drive cattle 2 miles to grass—poor place to camp plenty wood. (36)

Monday July 12th 1852

Start about noon and travel 6 miles to big camp 1½ miles above the ford—drive the cattle 6 miles to grass—good place to camp.

Tuesday July 13th 1852

camp in the same place and let the cattle rest—no more water for 40 miles ahead. .

Wednesday July 14th 1852

Start at 10 o'clock and travel till night—stop for supper travel till midnight—stop an hour travel till daylight—grass plenty.

Thursday July 15th 1852

Travel till noon and reach green river. green river quite low. camp one mile below the ford—take the cattle onto an island and let them stay without guarding. (37)

Friday 16th 1852

Lay by all day—not much grass—warm weather green river low—plenty wood and water.

Saturday July 17th 1852

Ford green river—good ford but swift current 2 foot deep—travel 10 miles to bear creek good place to camp plenty grass water and wood. .

35. They cross "over the summit of the Rock Mountains" through South Pass, the most celebrated pass in the entire continental divide. It is about 7,500 feet above sea level and as a mountain pass is disappointing. The ground slopes up so gently through a broad open valley that the traveler is in doubt as to which is the highest point. Tradition says that this pass was discovered by Etienne Provost in 1823. It is almost exactly half way between Independence Missouri and Fort Vancouver, so from here on our party must feel that they are on the "home stretch." Pacific Springs is the first water flowing toward the Pacific Ocean.

36. At Little Sandy they left the main trail, running by Fort Bridger, and took what was known as Sublette's Cut Off or the "Dry Drive." This rejoins the main trail near Bear River. It saved fifty-three miles but missed the supply point, Fort Bridger. Little Sandy is here flowing south. It is a tributary of Big Sandy which the next entry shows that they reached a few miles further on.

37. This is the Colorado Desert over which they have been traveling. Green River must have been very low. Birge, who crossed it in the summer of 1866, describes it as very swift and ten feet deep in some places. (Birge, "Awakening of the Desert," page 279.)

Sunday July 18th 1852

Lay by all day—good grass near camp—sold one ox and bought a cow and an ox—Gilliams left the Co—some rain and hail up the creek.

Monday July 19th 1852

Travel 20 miles—very hilly roads and broken country. windy day. camp on a small creek good grass—plenty wood and water—rains at night.

Tuesday 20th 1852

Travel 12 miles—very hilly bad roads—pass some quaken asps and some graves—camp on hams fork of bear river very good grass—wood and water. (38)

Wednesday July 21st 1852

Travel 18 miles—rough hilly roads—pass over the summit of the bear river mountains camp near a good spring good grass.

Thursday July 22nd 1852

Travel 14 miles—good roads on bear river—very dusty—camp on Bear river—very good grass on the island—plenty wood—musquitoes very bad. (39)

Friday July 23nd 1852

Travel 16 miles—very bad roads. cross Thomas fork on the bridge—paid $1.00 per wagon camp on bear river—good grass musquitoes bad. over take Caleb Richey (40)

Saturday July 24th 1852

Travel 10 miles—very good roads but dusty crossed several small creeks—camp near a good spring—plenty good grass and water.

Sunday July 25th 1852

Travel 10 miles—stop at 10 oclock and stay till night—very good grass—plenty wood and water—good place to camp—

38. Ham's Fork is not a tributary of Bear River, as James Akin seems to think, but joins Black's Fork some distance north of Fort Bridger and flows into Green River. It was an important stream in early days. They were approaching the line of the present state of Idaho, which they must have passed not far from the present town of Border.

39. Bear River rises nearly east of Salt Lake City and flows north through about two degrees of latitude. It then turns to the west, and swinging about, flows almost due south for over a hundred miles into Great Salt Lake. A few miles down Bear River the Sublette Cut Off, or "Dry Drive," which they had been following, joins the main trail.

40. This is Thompson's Fork and not "Thomas Fork" as James Akin writes it. The toll bridge shows how early some enterprising pioneer financier had begun to realize a profit by improving the difficult route. One dollar per wagon must have brought him in a golden harvest, if most of the emigrants crossed on his bridge.

Monday July 26th 1852

Travel 16 miles—very dusty roads—but good passed Soda and steamboat springs—camp on bear river—very bad watering cattle—grass plenty. (41)

Tuesday 27th 1852

Left bear river travel 18 miles—very good dusty roads—passed the forks of Oregon and California roads—plenty water good place to camp. (42)

Wednesday July 28th

Travel 7 miles—stop at 11 oclock—stay on account of sickness Parvekee indians plenty—camp on deep creek—good grass. (43)

Thursday July 29th 1852

Travel 18 miles—rough roads—passed plenty of spring—camp on a small creek—very good grass—plenty of wood—water and sarvis berries. (44)

Friday July 30th 1852

Travel 17 miles—very rough and dusty roads showers in the evening—camp on the creek—plenty grass—wood and water—no wagons in sight today.

Saturday July 31st 1852

Laid by all day—good grass—Miranda Jane Richey daughter of Caleb and Allice Richey died—rained some in the evening—wood and water plenty. (45)

Sunday August 1st 1852

Travel 16 miles—sandy and mudy roads—considerable rain—passed fort hall—camped on a fork of snake river—plenty of water—wood scarce. (46)

41. Soda Springs is at the great bend of Bear River. There are many hot springs here and one miniature geyser quite near. The noise of the eruptions of this little geyser has caused it to be named Steamboat Springs.
42. The Oregan and California trails fork just beyond the great bend of Bear River.
43. He may be trying to write "Portneuf Indians" here, as they are near the Portneuf River.
44. Service berries, of course.
45. This is the third death recorded by James Akin.
46. Fort Hall was on the left bank of Snake River about nine miles above the mouth of Portneuf. It had belonged to the Hudson's Bay Company and was the first station on Columbian waters.

Monday August 2nd 1852

Take an indian cut off and travel 10 miles—to the other road travel 7 miles farther cross snake river camp—grass plenty. (47)

Tuesday Aug 3rd

Travel 18 miles—very rough roads—passed the american falls of snake river—camp on Bench creek—grass very scarce—wood plenty. (48)

Wednesday 4 Aug 1852

Travel 12 miles—stop at 10 oclock and give the cattle grass rained considerable camp on river at the forks of the Oregon and California roads good grass.

Thursday Aug 5th 1852

Travel 15 miles without water—very rockey rough roads—camp on marsh creek—drive cattle two miles to grass.

Friday Aug 6th 1852

Travel 15 miles—good roads—passeda great many dead cattle—camp on goose creek—good grass—plenty wood and water. (49)

Saturday aug 7th 1852

Travel 25 miles—the last 13 without water—very rought dusty roads camp an hour after dark on dry creek water scarce—grass plenty. (50)

Sunday aug 8th 1852

Laid by all day—very good grass—great many camped around water very scarce—great many dead cattle on this creek.

Monday aug 9th 1852

Travel 8 miles—camp at 2 oclock—very good roads but dusty—camp on 2nd rock creek very good grass—water plenty. (51)

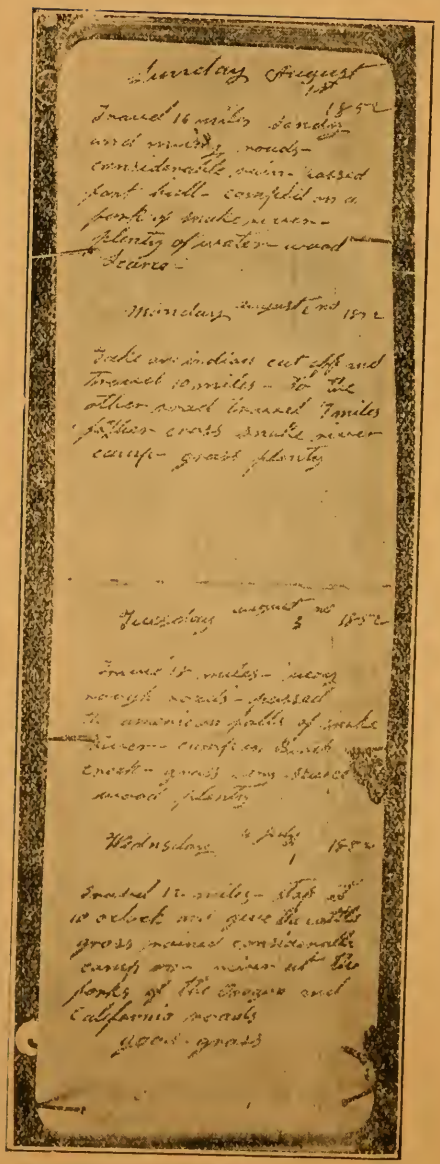
47. It is imposible to explain his entry; "cross Snake River" as the trail followed the left bank and his subsequent entries show that the Richey-Akin party continued down Snake River, following the left bank. Perhaps he means they cross a tributary of Snake River.

48. American Falls are said to be so named because a party of American hunters coming down the river in a canoe were swept over these falls and drowned. The next entry refers to a second fork of the California and Oregon trails. (See map in Chittenden, "History of the Fur Trade.")

49. The distance by the main trail from Marsh Creek to Goose Creek is seventeen miles. James Akin estimates it as fifteen which indicates that his estimates throughout may be taken as approximately correct.

50. This part of the trail was back some distance from the river. Dry Creek flows into the Snake River a few miles west of the 114th meridian.

51. Rock Creek flows into the Snake near the present city of Twin Falls.



Sunday August 1st 1852

Travel 16 miles sandy and windy roads - considerable ascent - passed part well - camped on a fork of snake river - plenty of water - wood scarce -

Monday August 2nd 1852

Fine morning - Indians cut off and traded some fish - the other part Emaned Miles further creek snake river camp - grass plenty

Tuesday August 3 1852

Travel 15 miles - heavy sandy roads - passed the remains of wells of snake river - camped on bank creek - grass very scarce wood plenty

Wednesday 4 July 1852

Travel 12 miles - stop at 10 o'clock and give the cattle grass passed considerable ascent and - came up the forks of the Oregon and California roads

Good grass

Tuesday aug. 10th 1852

Travel 12 miles—very rough and dusty roads grass scarce—camp on 2nd rock creek—some grass—water and wood plenty—mother sick in the evening this is James Akins wife that is sick.

Wednesday aug 11th 1852

Travel 16 miles—start very early—very bad watering place at noon in snake river—stop at 4 oclock and take the cattle to grass—start at dark and travel 8 miles to water.

Thursday aug 12th 1852

Travel 3 miles—stop and camp on banks of snake river—Lay by the balance of the day good grass three miles off—wood and water plenty.

Friday aug 13th 1852

Lay by all day—good grass—wood and water plenty. (52)

Saturday 14 aug

Start and travel 12 miles—to salmon falls water plenty—indians fishing. (53)

Sunday 15th aug

Lay by till sun down start and travel till 2 o'clock—stop and sleep till day light.

Monday aug 16th 1852

Travel till breakfast—stop on good grass—start and leave the road and go to the river—very bad place to water—lay by till night—start and travel till 1 oclock. (54)

Tuesday aug 17th 1852

Start at daylight and travel 6 miles to the crossing of snake river lay by the balance of the day—emigrants going down the river in wagon beds. (55)

Wednsday 18th august 1852

Lay by all day in same place—very bad place to camp—preparing to cross the river.

52. Apparently they lay by so often partly on account of sickness. Also they have passed the worst part of the journey and no doubt feel themselves and cattle entitled to a little rest.

53. Salmon Falls River flows into the Snake a little above the present town of Austin.

54. It must have been much more pleasant traveling at night than during the day, since it was now about the middle of August.

55. Probably the crossing referred to is Glenn's Ferry, near the mouth of Little Canon Creek, which flows into Snake River from the north. The entry "emigrants going down the river in wagon beds" is most interesting. Surely it would be a long and hazardous voyage. There would be portages to make too but it would at least be a change from driving ox wagons over the dusty trail.

Thursday august 19th

Try all day to get the cattle across the river and could not.

Friday auguast 20th

Tow the cattle across the river between the wagon beds—ferry them over in the evening James Nicholson starts in a wagon bed. (56)

Saturday august 21st 1852

All cross the river except two and gone after them—cool weather.

Sunday august 22nd

Mother taken worse in the morning and died about 9 oclock in the evening we are about 30 miles below Salmon river falls on the north side of the snake river Eliza Akin is the wife of James Akin. (57)

Monday 23nd august 1852

Mother was buried about 10 oclock in the morning about 200 yards above the crossing of the river—travel eight miles to a spring.

Tuesday august 24th

Lay by till noon Moses Rhodes died in the morning travel 11 miles—good roads camp on dry creek—water scarce—grass plenty. (58)

Wednsday august 25 1852

Travel 15 miles—good roads but hilly. plenty grass all the time—wood and water plenty—passed boiling hot springs camp on beautiful creek.

Thursday august 26th

Travel 14 miles—very rocky creek camp at Charlotte creek no water for the cattle grass and wood plenty.

Friday august 27th 1852

Travel 15 miles—hilly roads but good—plenty of grass all the time—camp on white horse creek—wood and water plenty.

56. This day and the preceding one must have been trying. Perhaps James Nicholson's experience with refractory oxen during these days was what prompted him to risk flying "to other ills he knew not of" rather than bear the present ones any longer. We can hardly fail to admire his courage in starting out in such a frail craft.

57. James Akin notes the location here exactly, as the place where his mother died and was buried. This was the fourth death in the little party.

58. The fifth death recorded by James Akin. They left the river at the crossing, and are traveling northwest across the country in the direction of the present city of Boise.

Saturday august 28

Travel 20 miles—without water good roads and cool day—camp on Boise river—this is a beautiful river—wood and grass plenty. (59)

Sunday august 29th 1852

Travel 12 miles—down Salmon river—good grass all the time camp at 2 oclock good grass—wood and water hares plenty —got some fish of the indians. (60)

Monday august 30th

Travel 18 miles—down Salmon river—good roads. cool day camp on Salmon river—good grass wood and water.

Tuesday august 31st 1852

Travel 15 miles down Salmon river—cross the river—good grass—wood and water plenty.

Wednsday September 1st 1852

Travel 8 miles to fort Boise cross snake river in the evening—pay $2.50 per wagon good grass on the north side of the river. (61)

Thursday Sept 2nd

Travel 15 miles to a large creek—good grass—camp at 10 oclock in the night very dusty roads. (62)

Friday 3nd Sep 1852

T 2½ miles—down the river to a spring—good grass and water —wood scarce. .

Saturday Sept 4th

Start at 2 oclock a m Travel 12 miles to Sulphur Springs—by 8 oclock p m Travel 12 miles further to Birch creek—not much grass water and wood plenty.

59. Probably a little above the present city of Boise.

60. It is difficult to understand why James Akin should call this "Salmon River" as he gave it correctly in the preceding entry. The stream is, of course, the Boise River which is here flowing nearly west. They travel down its valley some fifty miles to Fort Boise which is on Snake River eight miles below the mouth of the Boise.

61. The ferrymen's prices seem to increase as the emigrants approach Oregon and the California gold fields. Snake river forms the boundary line here between Idaho and Oregon, so they are now within the limits of the latter state.

62. The "large creek" must have been the Malheur River. The road has turned away from the Snake River but returns to it again about twenty-five miles beyond the Malheur, near Burnt River.

Sunday 5 Sept 1852

Travel 10 miles to burnt river—camp at 1 o'clock not much grass—herd the cattle on willows—wood plenty. (63)

Monday Sept. 6th

Travel 10 miles—Stop at noon and stay the balance of the day—windy and cold nights considerable sickness in the company—willow wood and water plenty.

Tuesday Sept 7th 1852

Travel 18 miles—leave burnt river—very rough hilly roads camp on a branch of burnt river—no grass—wood and water plenty.

Wednsday Spt 8

Travel 11 miles—rough roads—camp at noon on burnt river—grass—wood and water plenty.

Thursday Sept 9th 1852

Lay by all day on account of sickness, company, all left except uncle Stuart and Caleb Richey—not much grass—wood and water plenty.

Eliza Ann Richey daughter of Stuart Richey died at 9 o'clock P. M. (64)

Friday Sept 10th

Start at noon and travel 9 miles—good roads camp on small creek—not much grass—wood and water plenty.

Saturday Sept 11th 1852

Travel 23 miles—very dusty roads—camp on dry branch—not much water camp at 9 o'clock—grass pretty good.

Sunday Sept 12th

Travel 16 miles—very good roads—fine showers in the afternoon—camp on a branch of powder river grass—wood and water plenty.

63. Burnt River flows into Snake River a little below the present town of Huntington. They will now travel up Burnt River about twenty-eight miles to its great bend near where the present town of Durkee is located.

64. Apparently the company is becoming scattered again. This is the sixth death in the party. The roads are rough and, judged by measurements made on the maps, James Akin seems to be slightly overestimating the number of miles traveled in most cases.

Monday Sept 13th 1852

Travel 12 miles—good roads and cool day—noon at powder river—camp on a small creek good grass wood and water. (65)

Tuesday Sept 14th

Travel 16 miles to the west Side of grand round bought some beef at 20 cts per pound—excellent grass and water—pine wood. (66)

Wednesday Sept 15th 1852

Lay by all day—great many comped here on account of sickness—and to recrute their teams plenty of Kioose (Cayuse) indians with vegetables to sell

Abe Gilliam died.

Thursday Sept 16th

Lost 9 of our cattle—hunt for them all day and find them just at Sunset—considerable sickness in company.

Friday Sept 17th 1852

Travel 15 miles—cross the blue mountains and grand round river—roughest roads we have ever had—travel through pine timber all day camp.

Saturday Sept 18th

Travel 13 miles through thick timber and rough roads with out water—camp on a creek—plenty water and wood—some grass—tie the cattle at night. (67)

Sunday Sept 19th 1852

Start at 10 o'clock—travel 5 miles—through the timber roads better.. camp in the timber—same grass—not much water.

Monday Sept 20th

Travel 10 miles—good roads—to umatilla river pass a Kioose (Cayuse) village— camp on the river grass scarce. the cayuse was holding a war dance when we passed them, they was in war custom. (68)

65. Following the main line of the Oregon Trail it is sixty miles from Burnt River to Powder River. James Akin makes it about sixty-five, assuming that six of the twelve miles traveled September 13th were made in the forenoon.

66. The word is Grande Ronde. This was a circular valley in the mountains, noted as an excellent camping place. It was at this point that the trail started across the difficult Blue Mountains which will explain his entry: "great many camped here on account of sickness and to recruit their teams." The price of beef must have seemed to them very high The next entry records the seventh death in the company, and the last one that occurred among them while on the trail.

67. They are in a thickly timbered region which, coupled with their experience of September 16th, causes them to "tie the cattle at night."

68. They must have reached the Umatilla River not very far from the site of the present town of Pendleton. "War custom" of course means war costume.

Tuesday Sept 21st 1852

Travel 12 miles down the river—good roads—rained in the morning—camp on the river—no grass—wood and water plenty.

Wednsday Sept 22nd

Lay by till noon—travel 11 miles dry camp—plenty grass no wood or water.

Thursday Sept 23rd

Travel 7 miles to umatilla camp, at noon—Lay by the balance of the day—plenty wood and grass. .

Friday Sept 24

Travel 12 miles to Umatilla river and agency to butter creek camp on creek—good grass wood and water. (69)

Saturday Sept 25th 1852

Lay by all day—plenty of umatilla indians—about the camp all night plenty grass—wood and water.

Sunday Sept 26th

Start at noon—travel 10 miles—dry camp—no wood or water—grass plenty.

Monday Sept 27th 1852

Travel 12 miles to wells Springs—water scarce and not good—travel 6 miles further—dry camp— not much grass.

Tuesday Sept 28th

Start at 3 o'clock A. M. travel 9 miles to willow creek—water scarce—not much grass—wood plenty. (70)

Wednsday Sept 29th

Start at noon—travel 12 miles hilly roads—very windy day—camp—no wood—water or grass.

Thursday Sept 30th 1852

Start at day light—travel 18 miles—good roads camp on John daye river plenty wood and water—(71)

69. The main trail in early times followed down the Umatilla River about forty-five miles to the Columbia. The Akin party, however, evidently leave the Umatilla while yet several miles from the Columbia and turn nearly due west, traveling almost parallel with that river for eighty or ninety miles and not reaching it until they arrive at a point just above the mouth of the Des Chutes.

70. Willow Creek flows into the Columbia at the present town of Willows.

71. John Day River forms the boundary between Sherman and Gilliam Counties. It was named for John Day of the Astoria post.

Friday Oct 1st

Travel 12 miles—cross John daye river—camp 6 miles from river no water or wood—good grass—good roads. (72)

Saturday Oct 2nd

Start at mid night—travel 12 miles by sun rise get breakfast travel 5 miles further to columbia river—camp on the de chute river.

Sunday Oct 3rd

Cross de chute river before breakfast—start at noon and travel 6 miles camp on a creek—not much wood—plenty water and grass.

Monday Oct 4th 1852

Travel 10 miles—down columbia river—pass the dalles—flour wood—plenty water and grass—camp in two miles of the dalles.

Tuesday Oct 5th

Travel 10 miles—down columbia river—pass the dalles—flour 35 cts per pound camp in columbia river bottom— wood and water and grass plenty. (73)

Wednesday Oct 6th

Travel 2 miles—camp and go to preparing to raft down the river—haul some pine logs to the river grass plenty.

Thursday Oct 7th

Cut logs and cork wagon beds all day very windy evening and night plenty of wood water and grass. boats-canoes running up and down the river.

Friday Oct 8th 1852

very windy coll day—haul logs all day—no boats running cattle doing very well. .

Saturday Oct 9th

Still preparing our raft to go down the river—blustering cool weather.

Sunday Oct 10th

James Nicholson and John T. Stewart and John Akin start with the cattle on the pack trail. (74)

72. The meaning of this entry is not clear. Perhaps they traveled down John Day some miles before crossing.

73. At the Dalles they are about sixteen miles below the mouth of the Des Chutes River. There was splendid pine timber here and it was natural that they should prepare to "raft down the river" as he says in the next entry since they were below the obstruction of the Dalles.

74. Once the raft of logs and wagon beds was ready it was expected that the journey down the river would be made quickly, so they sent these three men on with the cattle.

Monday Oct 4 th
1852

Travel 10 miles - good roads camp on a small creek pat much wood - plenty water and grass - camp in five miles of the dalles -

Tuesday Oct 5 th

Travel 10 miles - down Columbia river - pass the dalles - Ferry 3 Lots per pound camp in columbia river bottom - wood and water and grass plenty

Wednesday Oct 6 th

Travel 8 miles - camp and go to pasturing on right down the river - travel some pine hogs to the river grass plenty

Thursday Oct 7 th

Cut logs and cork wagon beds all day very windy evening and night - plenty of wood water and grass

Boats - Canoes running up and down the

Monday Oct 11th 1852

Calm day—take our raft to pieces—put it togather again.

Tuesday Oct 12th

Start down the river about 10 o'clock travel 6 miles—wind up stream.

Wednsday Oct 13th

Travel 5 miles—high winds up the river—camp in a big willow thicket—plenty of wood.

Thursday Oct 14th 1852

Travel 5 miles—all leave the raft and go down the river in an indian canoe—except uncle Stuart and W. A. Coulter. (75)

(This is the last entry left by James Akin)

Friday Oct 15th

reach the cascades about 2 O'clock in the evening every one sick Stayed until my father and Coulter came with the raft and the cattle came and then we went to the lower cascades and camped there until the Steam Boat came from Portland. this is my rememberance—

EDGAR RICHEY.

Mrs.. Nancy Hanson tells me that we paid the indians who brought us down in the canoe—twenty dollars in money and our big tent

our little Sister mary ann Akin died at the lower cascades and was buried their we were at the cascades about a week waiting for a steam boat to bring us to portland

our father James Akin died two weeks after we reached portland (76)

Frances Akin now Rowe

Stuart Richey, Caleb Richey, and James Akins children settled in Pleasant valley 10 miles east of Portland.

Settled in the Spring of 1853 and hewed our farms out of the timber which cost $100 per acer and more.

75. Apparently voyaging by raft was not as successful as they had hoped, partly due to the fact that high winds were blowing up stream. It can be imagined too that they were perhaps none too skillful either in making or navigating such a craft. The Indians along the Columbia had large canoes and found profitable employment in transporting emigrants down the river.

This is the last entry made by James Akin. There are three more entries in the little book, however, all apparently made many years later. One is by James Akin's sister Frances Akin-Rowe and the other two are by Edgar Richey. These entries explain themselves.

76. Mary Akin is the eighth member of the party that died before they reached their destination though only seven died while on the trail.

John Akin went one or two dys and gets sick and is taken in the canoe and i take his place with the cattle—we stayed in portland that winter and then moved out on the ranch flour 40 dollars per bbl pickled pork 60 dollars per bbl potatoes 5 dollars per bushel and every thing at the same rate—we paid common cows one hundred dollars one yoke oxen $250 one hog twenty dollars. (77)

EDGAR RICHEY

77. Stuart Richey took the Akin children to live with him on his homestead in Pleasant Valley, since their father and mother were both dead. Stuart Richey lived there until his death, and his daughter still lives (in 1919) on the old homestead. All of the older members of the party are dead but some of the children who made the journey are still living. James Akin Jr., died some years ago but his younger brother Frank Akin is still living. In fact there are many members of the Akin and Richey families still living in Oregon, all prosperous and respected citizens. They brought with them, or had sent over, many seeds and scions of trees and shrubs from Iowa, which they have planted about their home. It is commonly said in that community that you can tell where any member of the Richey family lives by the trees about the house. The sour elms and hard maples which they brought from Iowa are especially beautiful, having grown wonderfully well in the Oregon soil and climate. (Statement of Mrs. D. H. Hartley.)

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